



Name: Karin Doyle
Address: 65 Glenfield Ave., Stratford, CT, 06614
Telephone#: 203-290-7808
Email Address: Karin.p.ahlberg@gmail.com

My name is Karin Doyle. My husband, Ralph, and I have twin 2.5 year-old sons, Ryan and Jake. When my husband and I brought our boys home from the Yale NNICU, we were overwhelmed and exhausted. Like most first time parents, we were so concerned about keeping our pre-mature babies healthy and thriving, that by the time the boys turned one-year old, we thought, "Well, we got through the first year. No how do we *actually raise* kind, compassionate, thoughtful twin boys?" Enter Stratford Parent's Place.

Our family has been active members of the Stratford Parent's Place community since January 2016. The support we have received from the entire Parent's Place staff is humbling and intangible. I credit the Parent's Place staff with aiding my boys development, something I continually worry about due to their pre-mature birth. Parent's Place is a sounding board. The outstanding staff members are always available for questions, advice or even a listening ear on a rough day. I often turn to Janet, Carrie, Migda, Stacey or Machele for advice ranging from high chairs and pre-schools to serious developmental concerns or behavioral issues.

In January 2017 our family began participating in the Parents as Teachers program. In less than two months I feel more capable and confident as a parent. This is a direct result of the in-home sessions with Janet Baxter. The boys and I also continue to participate in Monday organized playgroups as well as Thursday Open Centers. Ryan and Jake get so excited when we drive into the Stratford Parent's Place parking lot; it is one of their (and my!) favorite places to spend a few hours.

The effects of Parent's Place extend beyond my family. My mother and my in-laws have taken the boys to Open Centers. I share the invaluable information I receive during parent discussions with my sister and friends. The town of Stratford is so incredibly lucky to have this resource available to its' families. My friends from neighboring towns are constantly telling me how they wish a similar program were made available to them.

As an advocate for ALL children, please reconsider your budget cuts. Stratford Parent's Place has played an important role in my young family's life. It would be shameful to deprive parents and their children the opportunity to thrive in such an amazing, warm and caring environment.

Kindly,
Karin Doyle

719 Birdseye Street, Stratford, CT 06615
Phone (203) 381-6992
Fax (203) 381-6996

719 Birdseye Street, Stratford, CT 06615
Phone (203) 381-6992
Fax (203) 381-6996